

## BANK PRESIDENT GETS VERDICT OF GUILTY

William C. Damron, Accused of Grand Larceny, Is Convicted.

### SENTENCE ON WEDNESDAY

Third Brooklyn Savings Official to Jail Within One Month—Misapplied \$2,500 of Funds.

For the third time within a month a former bank president was convicted of grand larceny in Brooklyn last night before Justice Crane, of the Supreme Court. The guilty man yesterday was William C. Damron, ex-president of the Home Bank, at 50th street and Third avenue, Brooklyn. Damron was indicted last June on a charge of having misappropriated \$2,500 of the bank's funds.

After the foreman of the jury had pronounced Damron "guilty as indicted" and had recommended mercy from Justice Crane the latter remanded the prisoner to Raymond street jail until Wednesday, when he will be arraigned for sentence. The justice said he would take the jury's recommendation into consideration in passing sentence.

After Justice Crane had finished his charge to the jury the twelve men who held Damron's fate in their hands retired. That was at 5:30 p. m. Precisely at 9:30 o'clock last night they announced that they had reached a verdict. The prisoner took the verdict of the jury with great outward calm, although he compressed his lips firmly as the foreman said "Guilty."

"According to the indictment found against Damron, he was guilty of stealing \$2,500 from the bank of which he was president" on October 23, 1907. In January, 1908, the institution collapsed. Damron took the money from an account deposited with another Brooklyn bank in the name of "The William C. Damron, President, Special."

This account, according to the prosecution, represented many of the profits of the bank, but Damron claimed that he was legally entitled to the money he took. He contended that the legal work he did for the bank was worth the money he took from the special account, and because he received no salary as president he felt he was within his rights in accepting the money as his legal fee.

About three weeks ago David A. Sullivan, former president of the Mechanics and Traders' Bank, went on trial before Justice Crane in the same part of the Brooklyn Supreme Court as Damron was convicted in last night. Sullivan was indicted on a charge of having taken \$20,000 of the bank's funds, and was convicted.

He received an indeterminate sentence of from two years to four years and three months in the penitentiary. The second man to be convicted before Justice Crane was Broce R. Shears, former president of the Borough Bank of Brooklyn, who was indicted on a charge of having stolen \$1,000 from the Hollis Park Realty Company, of which he was president and trustee. Shears and Sullivan were both sentenced last Monday, Shears getting off with a sentence of three months in the penitentiary. He is now out on \$500 bail, pending his appeal.

Next Wednesday Gilbert Elliott, former vice-president of the Home Bank, of Brooklyn, will go on trial before Justice Crane and a jury. Elliott is charged with perjury.

### BOY HURT IN "SCATTER" GAME

Runs in Front of Automobile in Trying to Catch Playmate.

A game of "fifty scatter" almost cost the life last night of Joseph Tronto, six years old, of No. 514 Courtlandt avenue, The Bronx. Tronto was busily engaged in the game, and in trying to find some of his playmates ran in front of an automobile at 148th street and Courtlandt avenue.

The machine was owned by Alfred Roth, of 16th street and Alexander avenue, and the chauffeur was August Gans. Dr. Slavin took Tronto to Lincoln Hospital, where it was said he would recover.

### ARE YOU ENTERTAINING?

Talent for all socials, concerts and entertainments will be found on page 2, part V—Adv't.

## WILSON GOING TO SMOKER

Will Be Guest of Princeton Men Night of March 3.

Washington, Jan. 25.—President-elect Wilson will be the guest of honor at a reception and smoker on the night of March 3 by the Princeton Alumni Association of Washington. Invitations will be sent to the eighty-five hundred living Princeton graduates. The association is making arrangements for the Princeton graduates and their families to occupy a section of one of the reviewing stands for the inaugural parade on March 4.

Abandonment of the inaugural ball and the decision not to permit use of the Capitol for a public reception have aroused talk of a mammoth public reception at the White House on the evening of March 4.

Visitors who remain in the national capital for two extra days will not be deprived of the glories of an "inauguration ball" for the Southern League of the women's national Wilson and Marshall organization has determined to supply the deficiency on the evening of March 4. Dignified dancing of the "turkey trot" will not be prohibited, according to the leaders, and the "tango," "chicken flip" and "bunny hug" will be permitted if they are danced with due decorum. No arrangements have yet been made, and the chief problem is to secure a hall large enough in which to care for the throng.

### NAGEL GUEST OF EDITORS

Foreign Language Newspaper Men Hold Annual Dinner.

Despite the handicap of the winter strike, which left but a scant score of members of the American Association of Foreign Language Newspapers held their fourth annual dinner at the Hotel Knickerbocker last night. Louis Hammlinger, president of the association, presided. The speakers were Charles Nagel, Secretary of Commerce and Labor; John Purroy Mitchell, President of the Board of Aldermen; General Rafael Reyes, Arthur Williams, J. H. Apple and Giuseppe Cattani, chargé d'affaires of the Italian Embassy to the United States.

Among the diners were C. F. Tansig, B. D. Caldwell, George B. Cortelyou, Percival S. Hill, Lister L. Lewis, L. B. Palmer, Frank Trumbull, Charles Von Helms, Collin Armstrong, William F. Schmiedler, George Kende, T. B. Leeszyński, Chuk Leong, Kung Y. Sang, Celestino Piva, Fulmar Francis, Conde Nast, C. Song-rabi, Anne Enna, the Rev. C. L. Orbach, Victor Willius, C. M. Goke, E. Locatelli, Dr. Rosstier Johnson, Henry M. Goldfogel, Robert C. Morris, Herbert N. Casson, E. Sheela, Luigi Solari, J. J. Pauksztis, A. Samieh, A. A. Zrak, P. Axelrad, D. Popovich, A. Sawka, M. Uhrzack, Enrico Falda, M. Sica, Giulio Zucca, Joseph Barondess, Julius Rostovsky, J. G. Hummusa, M. D. A. Tashjian, Peter Wierm, John Demetrius, N. A. Mokarzel, Alfred K. Schwabach, Marcus Braun, Victor P. Hladick, M. Jaffe and Emil Kies.

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### COFFEE CHAIR IN COLUMBIA

N. Y. Roasters' Association To Give \$1,000 a Year.

A fellowship in coffee research is to be established at Columbia University according to an announcement made yesterday. The fellowship will be endowed in the sum of \$1,000 annually by the New York branch of the New York Coffee Roasters' Association, and the recipient will spend all his time during the year in investigating the properties of all grades of coffee.

Dr. H. L. Hollingsworth, of the department of psychology, under whose charge several extensive investigations into the health giving qualities of various patented summer drinks have been made, will probably be the director of the new fellowship.

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## ARMY AND NAVY NOTES

Officer Accused of Embezzlement Censured by Winthrop.

Washington, Jan. 25.—The Secretary of the Navy, Assistant Paymaster REPHIMANDEL, the Secretary of the Navy, has severely reprimanded Assistant Paymaster Russell Van de Water Bleeker, appointed from New York in 1911. Seven or eight months ago this officer, then on duty at the naval station at Key West, was brought before a general court martial on charges of embezzlement and absence from station and duty after his leave had expired. There has been much delay because of the claim that the embezzlement was technical.

Meanwhile, the officer has been under arrest at Key West. He has not been restored to duty with a reprimand, the sentence imposed by the court, which was reviewed by Assistant Secretary Winthrop, who as Acting Secretary remarked:

"It is very evident from the record of proceedings in this case that Assistant Paymaster Bleeker willfully used public funds with which he had been entrusted, both in cashing a certificate of deposit at an unauthorized bank and in drawing government funds which were not due him for his personal use while on leave of absence."

It is further evident that, in appropriating the public money to his own use on account of pay when it was not due him, he intentionally and deliberately violated the statutes or was guilty of such negligence as has repeatedly been held the equivalent of criminal intent.

Assistant Paymaster Bleeker was thus guilty of embezzlement. He had converted the public money to his own use, to himself and to his bondsmen, so to conduct his official duties as to be above suspicion, and to have confidence in his bondsmen as well as by the department.

ORDERS ISSUED.—The following orders have been issued:

ARMY.

Captain OLIVER P. M. HAZARD, from assignment 8th Cavalry, detached 10th Cavalry, to command the 1st Cavalry, 14th Cavalry, placed on list detached officers. Captain ARTHUR G. FISHER, cavalry, removed therefrom. Lieutenant Fisher assigned 14th Cavalry, 1st Cavalry, 14th Cavalry.

NAVY.

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## NEWARK HAS \$100,000 FIRE

Car Barns and Tenement House Burn—Children Locked in.

A spectacular fire totally destroyed the car barns of the Public Service Railway Company in Newark and a double tenement house last night, causing a loss of about \$100,000. Eugene A. Mullen, the station master, was in his office when a Polish car cleaner ran in and gave the alarm. By the time Mr. Mullen got outside the buildings were wrapped in flames. Fifteen cars were lost in the barns.

The barn was situated in Bergen street, running through to Hunterdon street, and when the fire attacked the rear of the structure it also reached out and caught the tenement house in its grasp. The six families who lived in the house got out safely with their household goods.

Next door to the tenement house is the home of Mrs. Louis Wagner. Policemen went through neighboring houses to warn the tenants. In one of the rooms in Mrs. Wagner's home they found two small children. The woman had gone out shopping and locked her children in.

H. A. Benedict, the mechanical engineer of the railway company, put the corporation's loss at \$60,000. The tenement house was valued at about \$10,000. The fire was in a densely populated part of the city, and the firemen were forced to knock down the roofs of many houses wet, so thick were the flying embers.

### REMARK BRINGS MIND BACK

Leads Aphasia Victim to Recall His Telephone Number.

Flower Hospital surgeons worked for several days last week to establish the identity of an aphasia victim, but it was merely a chance remark that almost instantly led to his identification yesterday. The man, well dressed and civil of speech, was taken to the hospital from the corner of 6th street and Third avenue last Tuesday. He was unable to tell anything about himself, and betrayed no interest in anything.

Dr. Quaglia passed through the ward yesterday and found the man sitting up in bed and looking out of the window. The doctor paused.

"What's that big thing?" asked the man, pointing out of the window.

"That is the Queensboro Bridge," said Dr. Quaglia. "It leads over to Long Island City and Flushing and—"

"Flushing, three, two, four W," said the sick man, meditatively.

Dr. Quaglia called up "Flushing 324-W," and was told by the parol school in Jamaica avenue, in that town, that William Haynes, one of its employees, took a number of the boys out walking last Sunday. In some way one of the lads got lost and did not return until Monday. This seemed to prey on Mr. Haynes's mind, and he disappeared on Monday evening. He was identified as the man in the hospital.

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## MARINE INTELLIGENCE

MINIATURE ALMANAC. Sunrise, 7:14; sunset, 6:10; moon rises, 10:25; moon's age, 18.

HIGH WATER. A. M. P. M. Sandy Hook 10:30 11:02 Governor's Island 10:50 11:25 Hell Gate 12:40 1:13

WIRELESS REPORTS. The Pennsylvania, reported as 360 miles east of Sandy Hook at noon yesterday, is expected to reach this afternoon. The Italian, reported as 103 miles east of Sandy Hook at noon yesterday, is expected to reach this afternoon.

The Lapland, reported as 744 miles east of Sandy Hook at 12:30 p. m. yesterday, is expected to reach this afternoon. The St. Laurent, reported as 735 miles east of Sandy Hook at 2:10 p. m. yesterday, is expected to reach this afternoon.

INCOMING STEAMERS. TO-DAY. Line. From. French. Havre, Jan. 18. French. Havre, Jan. 18. French. Havre, Jan. 18.

MONDAY, JANUARY 27. "Minneapolis," Southampton, Jan. 18. "Hermann," Bremen, Jan. 18. "Albatross," Hamburg, Jan. 18.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 28. "Oceania," Bremen, Jan. 21. "N. G. Lloyd," Bremen, Jan. 21. "Hermann," Bremen, Jan. 21.

OUTGOING STEAMERS. TO-DAY. Mail. Vessel. Sails. Atlantic, Southampton, W. S. 6:30 a. m. 12:00 a. m. Pacific, San Francisco, W. S. 6:30 a. m. 12:00 a. m.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 28. "Oceania," Bremen, Jan. 21. "N. G. Lloyd," Bremen, Jan. 21. "Hermann," Bremen, Jan. 21.

TRANS-PACIFIC MAILS. Destination and steamer. Close. N. Y. P. M. Japan, Korea, China, Philippines. (via San Francisco)—Chico Maru, Jan. 27, 6:30 a. m.

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